30th October 1935]

(c) how many special officers are still continuing on account of the same;

(d) what are the reasons for such continuance; and

(e) what steps the Government have taken to put a stop to such a state of affairs?

A.—(a) A statement [a] giving the information is placed on the table.

(b) *to* (e) It is presumed that the question refers to panchayats which were abolished and constituted afresh, owing to the failure of the Special Officers concerned to hold elections within the time prescribed in sub-section (2) of section 240 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, on account either of indifference on their part or on that of the villagers or on account of factions amongst the latter. There are 164 panchayats of this kind and in the case of all but one of them this step was resorted to once, and in the remaining case twice. The services of District Panchayat Officers are now being utilized to prevent a recurrence of such failures. No further action is called for on the part of the Government.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the District Panchayat Officers are the persons who conduct elections for the village panchayats? "

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" Generally the District Panchayat Officers are themselves directed to conduct the elections. In certain cases for the sake of administrative convenience, special officers are appointed as election officers."

Famine Relief

Prevalence of acute famine conditions in certain parts of the Rayachoti taluk, Cuddapah district.

* 291 *Q.*—Mr. T. Narasa Reddi : Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that acute famine conditions are prevailing in Galivedu revenue firka of Rayachoti taluk, Cuddapah district;

(b) whether the Government have received a report from the local officers that a woman in Galivedu firka attempted to commit suicide not being able to maintain her children on account of the acute famine conditions prevailing in that firka of Rayachoti taluk, Cuddapah district; and

(c) whether any member of the Board of Revenue toured in Cuddapah district to investigate to what extent the famine has affected the various firkas of Cuddapah district?

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[a] Printed as Appendix VII on page 226 infra.

A.—(*a*) A copy [a] of a report from the Collector on the condition of the season in Nulivedu firka (previously called Galivedu firka) is attached.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement toured in parts of the Cuddapah district on the 4th, 5th and 6th March 1935.

Applications from the ryots of Anantapur district for aid under Appendix F (i) of the Famine Code.

* 292 *Q.*—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any aid was asked by the ryots of Anantapur district under Appendix F (i) of the Famine Code; and

(*b*) if so, whether it was granted and on what terms and to what extent in this year?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is apparently referring to the provisions regarding aided private works which are contained in Appendix E to the Famine Code. The hon. Member himself suggested to the Government that use should be made of these provisions. The Government decided, after enquiry, that it was unnecessary to pursue the matter. As far as they are aware no other requests were made.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"May I know from the Hon. the Revenue Member the nature of the enquiry conducted by the Government and the results of the investigations made thereunder?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—"We consulted the Collector and he reported that it was unnecessary to pursue the matter further."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that the Collector received a number of petitions and even after the receipt of those petitions the Collector came to the conclusion that it was unnecessary to pursue the matter?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—"I have no information."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"May I request the Hon. Member to go into the matter further in the interests of the ryots?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—"As there is no famine now in any part of the Anantapur district, the Famine Code is not now being applied."

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 227 infra.